

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 15, 2009
Holiday Inn, Great Falls, Montana

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Murry, Steve Carney, Sharon Lincoln, Jack Lepley, Lee Rostad, Ed Smith, Kent Kleinkopf, Lee Rostad, Steve Lozar, Shirley Groff, Tom Nygard, Janene Caywood and Crystal Wong Shors. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Membership Beth Cargo, Department of Administration Architect Joe Triem, CTA Architect Keith Rupert, MHS Administrator Denise King, MHS Museum Program Manager Bill Mercer, MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, State Historic Preservation Program Manager Mark Baumler and Special Projects Manager Susan Near.

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Murry stated there were no corrections to the minutes from the July 10, 2009 Board meeting. The minutes stand approved as submitted.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES/FINANCIAL REPORT-Denise King

Denise presented the financial schedules for the FY 2010 through Quarter ending September 30, 2009. She highlighted the MHS value of the Trust Fund has declined \$266K due to the downturn in the economy this past year. The challenge is how to mitigate this loss. MHS will be meeting with the Board of Investments soon to develop a plan going forward. Ms King referred the board to page 11 of her report. She reported that if all things remain the same, the MHS will need additional 75K in cash revenues during this FY. The challenge to the board and the staff is what can be done to bring in additional cash. Revenue generating areas of MHS are the store, photo archives, education, publications, museum entrance fees, facility rentals and membership. Sale of the Lewis and Clark medallions and maquettes currently in the vault would also raise additional funds. Discussion of the sale of medallions and maquettes followed and included reducing their price, selling on eBay, wholesale and sale through other history publications. The staff is meeting to brainstorm ideas to increase cash flow. **Kent Kleinkopf moved to go back to the Senate and ask for help with a one-time appropriation to wipe this cost off of our books. This project was originally an unfunded mandate and the request would be part of a larger package that may be presented to the 2011 legislature. The motion was seconded by Lee Rostad. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Richard Sims

Richard noted that his written report was in the Board's folders. He reported some breaking news from Jennifer Perez Cole, Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. She has received a positive response regarding a \$25K donation from Wal-Mart in support of the Code Talkers Indian Veteran's Exhibit. The budget for this traveling exhibition is \$35K. It will travel around the State of Montana during the next year. The Smithsonian provides \$5K and with Wal-Mart's donation becoming a certainty, it will leave only \$5K more to raise.

Richard commented he wants to discuss campaign readiness. There is a lot of work to prepare for launching a fundraising campaign. His effort to hire a professional fundraiser did not produce qualified applicants. He noted that these people are hard to find and we can expect it will take time to find a quality hire.

Once the architect's plans are approved, the Board needs to decide what level of fundraising they want to pursue and decide who will lead this major effort.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Jim Murry

Jim stressed the need for the Board to keep in touch with Richard. He also wanted the Board to be aware that the Director's evaluation needs to be completed by January 2010. Richard would like to have a Board retreat, at least one day, perhaps January 14, 2010, the day before the next board meeting. More will follow on this idea.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

Due to the architects report no formal presentations were given.

ARCHITECT REPORT, MONTANA HERITAGE CENTER, Keith Ruppert, CTA Architects, Joe Triem, Architect and Engineering Office, State of Montana

Mr. Rupert presented a 1½ hour detailed presentation of the proposed design of the new Montana Heritage Center. After the presentation, CTA was looking for Board acceptance of the design. The goals and vision of the Heritage Center were briefly summarized as follows: 1) to be the welcoming center for the capital campus; 2) create a synergy on the capital campus for opportunities not only for the Heritage Center but for other areas of state government and the community; 3) be a center for knowledge and education and exploration; and 4) represent the people of Montana.

This design is a result of three intense work sessions with the MHS staff identifying and refining facility needs and work with their consultants specializing in museum and interpretive design. The design contains a significant increase in gallery and multipurpose space.

Board Discussion: The Board was pleased with the presentation. Compliments were given to the architectural team. However, they were not prepared to offer design approval. The Board members wanted more time to consider the plan. **Tom Nygard made the motion to have**

another Board meeting with the architects, before the regularly scheduled January 2010 meeting, where a more developed design could be presented. Crystal Wong Shors seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting will be scheduled for November 4 or 5 in the Capitol building.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

Adjournment: The Board meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.